

Did you know...



Children love to play, and when they play with words they are gaining stronger *phonological awareness* skills. Singing and playing with words will help your child begin to hear the smaller sounds in words. These skills are needed later on as children learn to read.

As you sing a song or say a poem, you can add actions such as clapping or bouncing. Nursery rhymes are a hit with young children because of the sing-song rhythm and nonsense words. As you introduce your child to rhyming, it is okay to make up nonsense words so they can hear the smaller sounds in them. Just have fun with words as you go through the day and these skills will keep growing.

Here's how...

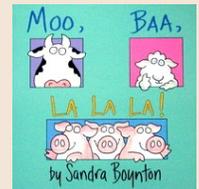


- ✦ Sing or play songs about animals while you move like them— hop like a bunny, strut like a chicken, gallop like a horse. Encourage your child to make that animal's sound as they move around.
- ✦ Give your child stuffed animals to play with and talk about the sounds they make. The next time you play with the animals hide one in a box. Make that animal's sound and ask your child which one is missing. Continue with other animals.
- ✦ Use rhyming words when you give directions to your child. Example: "There's milk in your cup. Now drink it up!"

Read



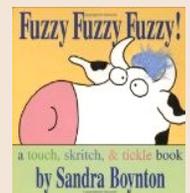
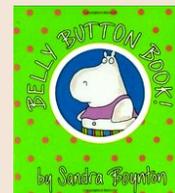
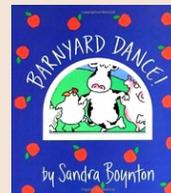
Moo, Baa, La La La, by Sandra Boynton



This book uses silly verses to teach animal sounds.

"Three singing pigs say 'La La La!'" Young children love making animal sounds, and they will enjoy correcting the animals when they say it wrong.

Author/cartoonist Sandra Boynton has written several books for young children. If your child enjoyed *Moo, Baa, La La La*, check out some of her other board books at your local library:



Choosing Books



Types of books that help your child play with words...

Rhyming books

Dr. Seuss books

Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme books

Books that illustrate a familiar song

Books with a rhythm or beat

Books with animal noises

Books with sounds, such as "buzz," "zoom," or "pop!"

Talk



After reading the story, go back and ask your child to point to animals on a page. "Where's the cow? (help your child point with her finger or hand) There it is! What does a cow say? That's right, Moo!" You can do this activity with other animal books, too!

Write



Children need to use and strengthen the muscles in their hands to be able to draw and write well. A fun way to strengthen muscles is to fill a small tub or pan with water and sponges. Show your child how to squeeze the sponge out and fill it up with water again. If you do not have a good place at home to get messy, just use bath time for sponge play.

Play



Eight Baby Pigs

(Use your fingers to represent the pigs)

Two little pigs lived in a pen,

(hold up thumbs)

Each had four babies and that made ten.

(wiggle fingers on both hands)

These four babies were black and white,

(wiggle four fingers on one hand)

These four babies were black as night.

(wiggle four fingers on other hand)

All eight babies loved to play,

(wiggle all fingers)

And they rolled and they rolled
in the mud all day! *(roll hands)*

Sing



Cows in the Barn

Tune: The Wheels on the Bus

The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo,

Moo, moo, moo; moo, moo, moo.

The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo,

All day long.

Additional verses:

The ducks in the pond go

quack, quack, quack...

The sheep in the field go

baa, baa, baa...

The piggies in the pen go

oink, oink, oink...



At your library...



Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Or you can ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!